

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the contamination of at least one optical component, that is contained inside a beam guidance space and that is held by a frame defining the beam guidance space, comprising:  
  
coating stainless steel surfaces of the frame neighboring the beam guidance space at least partially with a degassing barrier layer.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the degassing barrier layer is chosen such that it does not increase reflectivity.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the degassing barrier layer is designed such that it does not increase reflectivity for UV light with wavelengths of 157 nm, 193 nm, 248 nm, and 365 nm.
4. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the contamination of at least one optical component, that is contained inside a beam guidance space and that is held by a frame defining the beam guidance space, comprising:

ENTRY  
APPROVED  
08/16/04